

HONORING DR. NANCY J. NIELSEN

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend congratulations to the newly elected President of the American Medical Association, Dr. Nancy J. Nielsen, who hails from the Mountain State.

Dr. Nancy J. Nielsen is the first West Virginia native and second female to hold the prestigious post. She is originally a native of Elkins, WV, located in Randolph County and completed her undergraduate education in pre-medicine at West Virginia University.

She has a doctorate in microbiology from Catholic University of America and received her medical degree from University of Buffalo where she currently serves as senior associate dean for medical education for the school of medicine.

Dr. Nielsen is always proud to mention her West Virginia roots to her friends and colleagues. She maintains her ties to the State by serving on the Board of Advisers to the WVU School of Medicine.

She always makes time for family despite her busy teaching and travel schedule. Her mother, Anne Harshbarger, lives in Elkins and her children, Kristen Bartnik, Robin, David, Kevin Nielsen live in New York and her son, Mark Nielsen, lives in Washington, DC. She is the proud grandmother of 7 grandchildren.

It is an honor to recognize Dr. Nancy J. Nielsen as a trailblazer among women for her accomplished career and leadership roles in the medical profession. West Virginia is proud to call her one of our own.

A TRIBUTE TO THE NEWLY RETIRED ARTHUR BARNES, A PROUD SON OF HARLEM

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today, as we approach his retirement, to recognize the exemplary career of Arthur Barnes, who culminates a career marked by glowing accomplishment and triumph. He, this year, ends an illustrious 15-year stint as the Health Insurance Plan of New York's senior vice president for external affairs and corporate contributions—there, successfully pursuing with great energy and imagination the promoting of the health and well-being of the diverse New York community. Under his direction, the HIP generously doled out aid—in the form of grants, scholarships, contributions, sponsorships, and in-kind services—to those nonprofit organizations actively working to improve the quality of life for New York City residents. Through his efforts, Arthur Barnes empowered community organizations to make a substantive contribution to the education of people who were previously unaware of how they could positively affect their well-being through preventative behavior. This working partnership stands as Arthur's perhaps greatest legacy. It is that legacy of selfless service to the greater good that Arthur leaves behind for all to emulate.

He ably served in an array of influential posts before arriving at HIP: presiding over the New York Urban Coalition as its leader and CEO for 20 years, becoming a vice president at the Institute for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, and rising from file clerk to vice president of administration over a 21-year period at Consolidated Mutual Insurance Companies. His commitment to philanthropy remains a pillar of his public work, serving on the volunteer boards of Black Agency Executives, Associated Black Charities, and New York City Partnership, which he helped found.

A native son of Harlem, he has remained loyal and true to his home. But the benefits of his efforts are far-reaching and innumerable.

HONORING THOR HESLA

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, America has lost a great public servant. Thor Hesla died in Kabul, Afghanistan last night, a victim of the Taliban.

That Thor should pass at the hands of religious extremists is perhaps one of the great ironies of life because he was such a strong proponent of the humane, human virtues in life. He worked in tough places, tough jobs in America, in Kosovo, in Afghanistan, always promoting peace, democracy, and the general public welfare. He worked so many hard, dangerous jobs, and he was such a colorful person that he was larger than life. And I guess there are some of us who came to believe that the bullets would always go around him, and in his own particularly human way, Thor had become a touch immortal.

I owe him a deep debt of friendship and gratitude. He was my 1998 campaign manager, and we won a hard-fought campaign under his leadership. But that was the least of it. It was what he did afterwards. His friendship, his support, and his wise advice, which I was sometimes wise enough to accept, that was what for me set him apart and built our deep relationship. And I believe that there are hundreds of people across this country and perhaps thousands of people around the world who similarly feel this bond of friendship and this debt of gratitude to Thor. America and the world are better for his life and his work.

Earlier, I used the word "victim" in connection with Thor: and I misspoke, because Thor was no one's victim. He chose his life, he chose his work, and he chose Kabul.

Because of events earlier during the recess, I had an opportunity to speak with my son about life and its end. And while there are many ways to live well, to live a good life, there are few, if any, good ways to pass on. But if there are any, it is to pass on in the company of friends and family or to pass on for a cause. Now, Thor wasn't with his family in Atlanta or here in Washington, his sister, his brother-in-law, his niece and nephew, or his father; but he was with a family and a circle of friends, the family of those who care, the friends of those who care for others and who care to risk for others. He died in the cause of ringing some small measure of peace, prosperity, and democracy to those who are in dire need of those things.

So tonight we mourn, we remember, we celebrate the life of Thor Hesla. America has lost a fine public servant, but he is now a public servant for all those in all the ages who care to remember those who care and sacrifice for others.

HONORING SANDY DUNN

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker. I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Sandy Dunn, who was recently named the 2008 president of the National Association of Home Builders; making her the first West Virginian and the second female to serve as president of the association.

A native of Mason County, West Virginia, Sandy followed in her father's footsteps by pursuing an interest in public service and taking over their family business, B.J. Builders founded by her father in 1947. In 1974, she additionally opened her own small business, Homestead Realty that grew into the county's largest realty agency.

While remaining dedicated to her community, Sandy emerged in the homebuilding industry as an affective leader with a reputation as a consensus builder. She owes her success to open communication and listening to the concerns of the industry within her state and across the nation.

Her previous experience within the homebuilding industry led her to her current post as president of the National Association of Home Builders. She has been active with the organization for 30 years, where she began on the local level gaining leadership positions, later served as president of the West Virginia Association of Home Builders for 2 years, and also served twice as vice president of the national association. She has received numerous honors including the 1997 Henry E. King Award, the highest statewide honor and was named National Representative of the Year in 1998.

It is an honor to represent such an accomplished, female leader who serves the needs of the homebuilding industry on the national front, while always maintaining her dedication to her community of Mason County. I am proud to call Sandy Dunn, a friend and a fellow West Virginian.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5087

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, earlier today my colleague Dr. RON PAUL and I introduced H.R. 5087, the Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act of 2008, to block the automatic pay raise Members of Congress are scheduled to receive next year.

As you may recall, I introduced a similar bill last year seeking to prevent an automatic pay raise for Members of Congress from taking effect this year.

Unfortunately, despite the support of 29 co-sponsors, last year's bill failed to reach the

floor. As a result, every Member is now receiving \$169,300 this year, a \$4,100 increase from last year.

Madam Speaker, the American people didn't get a \$4,100 pay raise this year. I do not know how in good conscience we, as their Representatives in Congress, can accept one.

Our Nation is at war, we have a national debt of more than \$9 trillion, and fears of a recession have sent the stock market into a tailspin. Unemployment is up, home sales are down, and markets around the world are on shaky ground.

In December, the unemployment rate rose in 46 States as well as the District of Columbia.

In my home State of Arizona, unemployment rose 42 percent between September and December alone, leaving 143,800 unemployed.

Compounding the situation, nationwide inflation shot up 6 percent in 2007, the largest jump in 26 years. The same gallon of gas that cost \$2.20 a year ago now costs more than \$3—and new home construction dropped 25 percent, the largest decrease in 27 years.

When Members of Congress accept this pay raise, we send the wrong message.

Americans are suffering and instead of feeling that pain, Congress is approving pay raises to further insulate us from it. If you want to know why people hate Washington and feel that it is out of touch, it is precisely because of moves like this.

I will be donating my 2008 pay raise to charity and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

I also encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5087 to stop next year's pay raise for Members of Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. DANIEL BRINSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished young man from my district, Mr. Daniel Brinson.

Daniel, a Montgomery native, is currently a sophomore at Auburn University and a member of the Nu Chapter of the Kappa Alpha Order. In late September of 2007, Daniel was traveling with a friend, Terrell Webb, when the pair came upon an accident. Both cars involved were in flames off the side of the roadway. Daniel and his companion approached the vehicles and heard cries for help. In an act of selfless courage Brinson and Webb forced their way into one of the cars and pulled one of the occupants, a young woman, away from danger. The young woman has since overcome serious injuries to make a full recovery.

Mr. Brinson's unflinching willingness to risk his safety to help others is an example for all Alabamians. I salute Daniel for his service to his neighbors, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during Rollcall vote No. 18 on Final Passage of Hope VI Reauthorization, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye".

HOPELESS IN AFRICA? DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, like millions of Americans, when reminded of the facts and photographs of the millions of souls in Africa that are malnourished and lack even the basic necessities of life, I wring my hands at the enormity of the problem.

I recently read an article by Wes Vernon regarding the sad plight of those in Kenya, but what lifted my spirits was what the author said was being accomplished to help these people. Rather than do nothing because of the enormity of the problem, or simply demand that the U.S. Government provide ever increasing amounts of foreign aid, American citizens with a vision and a burden to help those less fortunate have decided to take action.

People from as far as East Africa all the way to Marietta, Georgia have joined hands to create the United Orphanage and Academy. They are doing great work, and I commend them for their efforts, their initiative, and their selfless compassion.

I commend this article to your reading and submit it to the RECORD for posterity. Thank you.

[From RenewAmerica, Jan. 12, 2008]

HOPELESS IN AFRICA? DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT

(By Wes Vernon)

Herewith, the classic example of a humanitarian and selfless effort linked in a very meaningful way to our strategic interests in a far-off part of the world, and incidentally the effectiveness of volunteer effort as opposed to taxpayer-funded giveaways.

KENYA'S FUTURE AND AMERICA'S SECURITY

In the War on Islamofascism, the United States has a very firm ally in Kenya—one of our best friends on the African continent. That assumes Kenya remains stable. President Mwai Kibaki was recently re-elected. His opponents don't like the outcome and their protests have at times become violent and bloody. Under Kibaki's government, Kenya has—since 9/11—provided us with military bases, and shared intelligence to head off at Qaeda's inroads in Africa. That has been backed up by communications networks.

Retired Lt. Gen. Michael DeLong recently told the Washington Times that Kenya is "strategically located," and that a failed state in Kenya would erase "one of the top friendly militaries to the United States in Africa."

FROM THE HEART, RATHER THAN THE TAXMAN'S SHAKEDOWN

During the holidays, Americans were served up a steady stream of TV ads urging

them to prod the presidential candidates to promise to feed the world's starving.

There is a premise there that deserves a fair amount of dissection.

In the first place, the assumption the problem of the world's needy can most effectively be remedied by an entanglement in the morass of presidential politics. I have yet to hear a candidate for any office declare on the stump, "And furthermore, if elected, I promise that I will dish out more of your tax money for foreign aid."

Not that the American electorate is cold-hearted or indifferent to the hunger problem in third-world countries. Every study that this column has seen on the subject confirms that Americans are the most generous people in the world. But over the years, they have heard some horror stories about how aid we have sent to the far corners of the earth has failed to reach the poor people for whom it was intended after corrupt politicians there got their hands on it. For U.N. aid—also funded by you and me—the results of aid projects have been even worse. That is why even the most compassionate among us are cynical about government-run "foreign aid."

I once approached a congressman just off the House floor to interview him on a foreign aid bill that only seconds before he had eloquently urged his colleagues to pass. I thought the man would have a stroke. "Foreign aid? That's not a popular issue! You know that!" he reproached me while emphatically declining the interview.

NOW SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARD TO KENYA

In a land overwhelmed by poverty, pestilence, corruption, and perpetual war, there is an instinct to throw up your hands and give up. For those not willing to walk away from digging out of that appearance (at first blush) of a relentless quicksand in Sub-Saharan Africa, there is—as a shining example of hope—the United Orphanage and Academy.

STARTING SOMEWHERE

In that part of the world, there are heart-rending examples of despair wherever you look. No one capable of human feelings can ignore a hungry and/or sick child. Shelters have been known to run out of food in trying to alleviate starvation.

Also in that part of the world—a place not normally on everyone's radar—the difficulty in dealing with the "impossible" is all the more acute. Many life-threatening birth defects can be treated in the Western world. Not necessarily so in Africa.

Much the same applies to blindness. If there is an effective preventive measure, we will find it here in America. The odds are longer in much of Africa.

And then there are the kids who have been orphaned—often through the ravages of war. Twelve million kids in the region have been orphaned by parents who died of the HIV-Aids pandemic. Add famine and unsafe drinking water to the mix, and you can see that many of God's children are in desperate straits.

THE HISTORY

The United Orphanage and Academy is the brainchild of the Rev. Stephen N. Chege, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church of East Africa (the orphanage's director) and Washington attorney Henri (pronounced Henry) Rush of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Alexandria, VA. They founded the orphanage in 2001. The facility opened its doors in 2004 as a home for six orphaned children. It now houses the 48 kids (31 girls and 17 boys, ages 4 to 15 years old).

Since its founding, the orphanage has been supported by Westminster; Old Presbyterian Meeting House (Alexandria); Lewinsville Presbyterian Church (McLean, Virginia);